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Abstract

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by William R. Shelton

This study has two purposes, the first of which is an analysis and interpretation of the culture of Sumadia, a Serbian subsistence-agricultural and semi-nomadic town of northern Iraq. In carrying out this purpose, it is necessary to make reference to other cultural institutions in Iraq and the Middle East. On the other hand, inasmuch as isolated, localized institutions of the Kurds have not been particularly attempted, this study of Sumadia is also to contribute to the ethnology of the Middle East. The Kurds are a Semitic people numbering several millions, who inhabit the mountainous region where the frontiers of Iraq, Iran, Russia, Syria, and Turkey meet. The second purpose of this study is the delineation of the impact of the modern state on the structure of the society of the town and the division within which it lies. The materials were obtained from seven months' intensive investigations in the summer of 1951.

An analysis and interpretation of the culture of Sumadia are presented in six areas of discussion: 1) the subsistence sector, 2) the nonsubsistence sector, 3) trade, towns, and diet, 4) the society, 5) the family, 6) religious life. The population of the town numbers about 3000 and is basically made up of nomadic,

[p. i(a)]

many of the Schaeffer's expeditions have contributed an immense 114
of Linguistic and Ethnological. Gratitude must be expressed
to Professor E. Harbury Williams and Dr. Edward H. Schafer
of the University of Michigan, the former for his help in
obtaining the grants-in-aid to government establishments
and the latter for a monthly review of the foreign works
and periodicals. Lastly, it remains to thank the Management
of Sonnenschein and their printers, Messrs. John Wright, for
their friendliness and generous co-operation without which
this Introduction would have been impossible. It is hoped
that a study of their life and practices will in some way
repay them for their kindness.

Words from Greek, Sanskrit, Turkish, and other 128
languages have been encountered in the text, but accent 114
marks have been omitted. The reader will find in the
appendix a glossary of these words in simplified transcription.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]